

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 27, 2003. Claims 1, 3 to 6, 8 to 11 and 13 to 21 remain in the application, with Claims 1, 3 to 6, 8 to 11, 13 to 16, 18 and 20 having been amended. Claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 18 and 20 are the independent claims herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3 to 6, 8 to 11 and 13 to 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,261,044 (Dev) in view of Microsoft Windows screen dumps. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns management of settings information for each of a plurality of image processing functions. The settings information indicates an identifier of each image processing function (copy, print, fax, etc.) and a plurality of image processing devices for implementing each image processing function. In managing the settings information, a search is performed to acquire information concerning each of various image processing devices connected to a network. Icons, each corresponding to each image processing function that is managed, are displayed on a display. Then, when a user selects an icon from among the displayed icons, at least a part of current settings information that is acquired in regard to an image processing function corresponding to the selected icon, are displayed in proximity of the selected icon. For example, as shown in Figure 9, when a user selects icon 901 (corresponding to function 2 of Figure 6) with a cursor, the current settings information 903 is displayed next to the icon 901. The displayed settings information includes an identifier 605 of the function and one or a plurality of image processing devices that implementing the function (609, 611). As a result, a user can determine which of a plurality of devices has the selected image

processing function mounted thereon merely by selecting the icon corresponding to the function.

With specific reference to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is a network terminal apparatus comprising management means for managing settings information for each of a plurality of image processing functions, wherein the settings information indicates an identifier of each image processing function and a plurality of image processing devices for implementing each image processing function, search means for acquiring information concerning each of various image processing devices connected to a network, based on the settings information managed by the management means, icon display means for displaying icons each corresponding to each image processing function managed by the management means, and settings information display means for displaying at least a part of current settings information determined by the information acquired by the search means in regard to an image processing function corresponding to an icon selected by a user from among the icons displayed by the icon display means, in proximity of the selected icon.

Amended independent Claims 6 and 11 are method and storage medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 1.

Amended independent Claims 16, 18 and 20 include features along the lines of Claims 1, 6 and 11 with one difference being that the current settings information is displayed when an icon is designated for a predetermined period of time. Thus, Claim 16 is a network terminal apparatus, comprising management means for managing settings information for each of a plurality of image processing functions, wherein the settings information indicates an identifier of each image processing function and a plurality of image processing devices for implementing each image processing function, search means

for acquiring information concerning each of various image processing devices connected to a network, based on the settings information managed by the management means, icon display means for displaying icons each corresponding to each image processing function managed by the management means, designating means for allowing a user to designate, in order to select, a desired icon from among the icons displayed by the icon display means, and settings information display means for, when an icon is designated for a predetermined period of time, displaying at least a part of current settings information determined by the information acquired by the search means in regard to an image processing function corresponding to the designated icon.

Amended independent Claims 18 and 20 are method and storage medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 16.

The applied art, alone or in combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 18 and 20. More particularly, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of managing settings information for each of a plurality of image processing functions, wherein the settings information indicates an identifier of each image processing function and a plurality of image processing devices for implementing each image processing function, displaying icons each corresponding to each image processing function being managed, and displaying at least a part of current settings information in regard to an image processing function corresponding to an icon designated by a user.

Dev is merely seen to disclose a network fault isolation technique in which icons that depict the interrelation of network entities are displayed. By selecting an area of a displayed icon, another more detailed icon can be displayed. Thus, the user can select various areas of an entity icon until they have selected to the lowest level (e.g., a single

device) so they can view fault information of the device. For example, by selecting the Bridge 2, as shown in Fig. 10, the user can view symptoms/problems and alarms relating to the Bridge 2. As such, the user can determine and isolate any faults that may have occurred within the network by selecting the various icons. Therefore, Dev merely displays the icons of the network devices, but the icon does not correspond to an image processing function that is to be managed. Moreover, the icon is not displayed with current settings information which indicates an identifier of the function and a plurality of image processing devices for implementing the function. Accordingly, Dev is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of managing settings information for each of a plurality of image processing functions, wherein the settings information indicates an identifier of each image processing function and a plurality of image processing devices for implementing each image processing function, displaying icons each corresponding to each image processing function being managed, and displaying at least a part of current settings information in regard to an image processing function corresponding to an icon designated by a user.

The Microsoft screen dumps are merely seen to depict displaying a name of a function (print) and a type of a default device (HP Laser Jet 1100) for the function when a cursor is moved over an icon. It is noted that the Screen Dumps' display and operation is entirely different from the present invention. In this regard, the displayed icons are static icons in that no information is acquired from devices connected on the network, but rather, the icon corresponds to a default setting of a function within the computer. Moreover, the icons cannot display settings information of a plurality of devices that correspond to the function, but rather, can only display the default device. Accordingly, the Screen Dumps are also not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of managing settings

information for each of a plurality of image processing functions, wherein the settings information indicates an identifier of each image processing function and a plurality of image processing devices for implementing each image processing function, displaying icons each corresponding to each image processing function being managed, and displaying at least a part of current settings information in regard to an image processing function corresponding to an icon designated by a user.

Moreover, any permissible combination of Dev and the Screen Dumps would not have rendered the present invention obvious. In this regard, even if Dev and the Screen Dumps could have been combined at the time of the invention, a point which Applicant does not concede, the resultant combination would have merely provided for, when a user of Dev's system moves a cursor over the icon of, for example, Bridge 2 shown in Fig. 10, the name of the Bridge 2 being displayed next to the icon and perhaps a function of the device, such as Bridge, being displayed. Thus, the display that would have resulted from moving the cursor over the icon would merely have depicted the name and possibly the function of the device corresponding to the icon, but would not have resulted in the display of a plurality of image processing devices for implementing each image processing function corresponding to the icon. Accordingly, any permissible combination of Dev and the Screen Dumps would not have resulted in the present invention.

In view of the foregoing deficiencies of the applied art, independent Claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 18 and 20, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

As a formal matter, Applicant requests acknowledgment of the priority papers filed on June 29, 2000. In this regard, three Office Actions have been received in the above-identified application with mailing dates of September 12, 2002, February 12,

2003 and August 27, 2003, respectively. However, to date, no acknowledgment has been made of receipt of the Claim for Priority dated June 28, 2000, along with a certified copy of Japanese Patent Application No. 11-103221. Attached hereto as Exhibit A is a copy of a stamped postcard receipt acknowledging the filing of the Claim for Priority, together with the certified copy of the priority document, in the Patent and Trademark Office on June 29, 2000. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner formally acknowledge receipt of the Claim for Priority and the certified copy of Japanese Patent Application No. 11-103221.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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